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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-eighth session
Item 6 of the provisional agenda

RACISM, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, XENOPHOBIA AND ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION

Written statement* submitted by Servas International, a non-governmental organization on the Roster

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[14 Febuary 2002]

*This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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ENG

Servas International, referring to Item 6 'Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and all forms of discrimination', has the honour to inform the Fifty-eighth session of the Commission on Human Rights that Servas (an Esperanto word meaning 'serve') is a world-wide, non-profit, non-governmental cooperative system of hosts and travellers set up with the purpose of helping to build world peace, goodwill, understanding and mutual tolerance, and that its activity consists of making it possible for its members to meet people of all continents, of all races, all religions and all political opinions.

Servas International facilitates the meeting of people of different origins. It puts at the disposal of its members lists of hosts who in over 100 countries on all continents are willing and happy to open the doors of their homes to travellers from all countries. Thus contacts can be established by person to person, by family to family, often resulting in lasting friendships between people of different origins.

Servas International considers this activity to be a significant contribution to peace in the world. This was the intention of the founders of the movement in 1949 (In 1999 the movement's 50th anniversary was celebrated by members all over the world.). In the future it is hoped that even more doors will be opened; that more hosts anhd travellers will be interested in the sharing of ideas and ideals with one another in order to understand better the diversity of humankind, in the ultimate interest of world peace.